

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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PASS AGRICULTURE

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WFC, AORG, FAO
SUBJECT: JANUARY 31 OF MEETING OF ROME PERMREPS TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

REF: (A) ROME 1180 (B) ROME 1565 (C) ROME 1731 (D) STATE 24422
(3) STAGE 24244

1. AT SUBJECT MEETING WALTERS, WFC SECRETARIAT, OUTLINED IN VERY
GENERAL TERMS SECRETARIAT'S PLANS FOR JUNE COUNCIL SESSION AND
DISTRIBUTED PROPOSED AGENDA WHICH IS SAME AS CONTAINED IN REFTEL
(A). COPY WITH SECRETARIAT NOTES BEING POUCHED TO PAUL BYRNES, IO.
WALTER'S STATEMENTS WERE IN ACCORD THOSE GIVEN IN REFTEL (B).

2. WALTERS INDICATED PROPOSED AGENDA IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO
CHANGE AND, WHILE HE DID NOT EXPECT COMMENTS AT THIS TIME, HE WOULD
ANTICIPATE THAT PERMREPS AT FUTURE MEETINGS WOULD ENTER INTO SUB-
STANTIVE DISCUSSION CONCERNING SUBJECTS ON AGENDA. WFC SECRETARIAT
INDICATED IT IS PROPOSING TO HAVE MONTHLY MEETING WITH PERMREPS IN
ROME BETWEEN NOW AND COUNCIL MEETING. MISSION OFFICER HAVING MEETING
WITH WALTERS LATER THIS WEEK TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS WITH REGARD
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TO SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL (D).

3. MOST OF THE MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO QUESTION OF
TIM AND LOCATION OF COUNCIL MEETING. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL
(C), CANADIAN DEL MADE PROPOSAL THAT PREPCOM BE MOVED FROM
7-9 JUNE TO 5-7 JUNE. FRANCE THEN PROPOSED THAT
PREPCOM BE HELD IN ROME A MONTH AHEAD OF COUNCIL MEETING.

FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS SUPPORTED BY AUSTRALIA, DENMARK, JAPNA, PAKISTAN, PRIOR TO WFC. MEXICO, YUGOSLAVIA, BANGLADESH, AND CUBA SUPPORTED CANADIAN

SUGGESTION. IN VIEW OF SENTIMENT, THE BEST WE CAN EXPECT IS PREPCOM WILL BE HELD IN MEXICO 5-7 JUNE AND THAT THE COUNCIL ITSELF WILL BE JUNE 12-14 MEXICO. WALTERS, IN CLOSING THE DEBATE, INDICATED BUREAU WILL TAKE ONE MORE LOOK AT QUESTION OF TIME AND LOCATION. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THE BUREAU WILL DECIDE ON BASIS OF CANADIAN PROPOSAL.

4. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF ROME GENEVA GROUP WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF WEC HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THEY ARE NOT BEING KEPT INFORMED BY WFC SECRETARIAT OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE AND HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO ATTEND MONTHLY MEETING OF PERMREPS TO WFC AS OBSERVERS. WALTERS, IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, INDICATED WILLINGNESS WFC SECRETARIAT TO CIRCULATE PAPERS TO BOTH MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS OF WFC. IN ADDITION, NON-MEMBERS COULD ATTEND MONTHLY MEETINGS AS OBSERVERS.

5. COMMENT: WHAT APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING IS A SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE PERMREPS AS IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE SECRETARIAT AND MOST MEMBERS OF THE WFC TO ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS BASED ON DRAFT PAPERS WFC PREPARING FOR APRIL AND NOT TO DISCUSS PURELY PROCEDURAL MATTERS AS IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAST. FODAG BELIEVES SERIES OF WFC DISCUSSIONS IN ROME WILL PUT SOME PRESSURES ON US TO REACT SUBSTANTIVELY, ESPECIALLY AFTER DRAFT PAPERS CIRCULATED. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE IMPRACTICAL AND POLITICALLY UNPOPULAR TO TRY TO HOLD SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES OFF UNTIL A JUNE PREPCOM IN MEXICO CITY. / FOR FEBRUARY MEETING WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING AGENDA SO WE CAN COORDINATE WITH OTHER WFC MEMBERS. GARDNER

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